United Nations A/AC.105/PV.405

General Assembly

Official Records

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

405th Meeting
Thursday, 16 June 1994, 10 a.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Mr. Hohenfellner . . . . . (Austria)

The meeting was called to order at 11.45 a.m.

Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

The Chairman: I call first on the Rapporteur.

Mr. Telles Ribeiro (Brazil), Rapporteur of the Committee: We now have before us the draft report, in the documents we examined yesterday and earlier today: documents A/AC.105/L.205 and Add.1, Add.2 and Add.3. We will proceed, as is the usual practice in our Committee, to review them section by section. Of course, during our discussions some of the changes referred to in documents A/AC.105/1994/CRP.6 and CRP.7 will be mentioned as well.

The Chairman: I draw the attention of the Committee to document A/AC.105/L.205. May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraphs 1 to 17?

Paragraphs 1 to 17 were adopted.

The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraphs 18 to 23?

Paragraphs 18 to 23 were adopted.

The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraph 24?

Paragraph 24 was adopted.

The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraphs 25 to 31?

Paragraphs 25 to 31 were adopted.

The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraphs 32 to 34?

Paragraphs 32 to 34 were adopted.

The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraphs 35 to 40?

Paragraphs 35 to 40 were adopted.

The Chairman: I have been invited to make the following statement.

I have the pleasure to inform the Committee that the countries selected by the United Nations to host the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education for the Latin American and Caribbean region, Brazil and Mexico, have notified the Secretariat of the conclusion of negotiations with a view to its establishment. The Secretariat of the Centre, which is to be located initially at the national Institute of Space Research of Brazil and to have a Secretary-General of Mexican nationality, will rotate every four years between Brazil and Mexico, with each campus beginning activities simultaneously under the coordinated guidance of the Board of Governors.

The Secretariat will reflect this agreement, with appropriate language, in our report.

We now take up paragraphs 41 to 43. May I take it that the Committee adopts those paragraphs?

Paragraphs 41 to 43 were adopted.

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The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraphs 44 and 45?

Paragraphs 44 and 45 were adopted.

The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraphs 46 to 50?

Paragraphs 46 to 50 were adopted.

The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraphs 51 to 56?

Paragraphs 51 to 56 were adopted.

The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraphs 57 to 64?

Paragraphs 57 to 64 were adopted.

The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraphs 65 to 76?

Paragraphs 65 to 76 were adopted.

The Chairman: Does the Committee wish to adopt paragraphs 77 to 85?

Paragraphs 77 to 85 were adopted.

The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee adopts paragraphs 86 to 92.

Paragraphs 86 to 92 were adopted.

The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt paragraphs 93 to 97.

Paragraphs 93 to 97 were adopted.

The Chairman: We now turn to document A/AC.105/L.205/Add.1. Does the Committee wish to adopt paragraphs 1 to 7?

Paragraphs 1 to 7 were adopted.

The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt paragraphs 8 to 20?

Paragraphs 8 to 20 were adopted.

Mr. Louet (France) *(interpretation from French):* What has happened with regard to paragraph 18?

The Chairman: Paragraph 18 has been deleted following informal consultations. There will be a renumbering of all paragraphs after the deletion.

We now take up paragraphs 21 to 30.

Mr. María Curia (Argentina) *(interpretation from Spanish):* I am a little confused. Could the Secretary or the Rapporteur read out paragraph 29 of the final version?

The Chairman: I call on the Rapporteur.

Mr. Telles Ribeiro (Brazil), Rapporteur of the Committee: Paragraph 29 stays as it is. There will be a paragraph 29 *bis*, which reads:

> "The view was expressed that international cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space should strive to allocate resources efficiently and that it should be based on the principles of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the outer space Treaty. In this regard, States should be free to determine all aspects of their cooperation on equitable and mutually agreeable terms and the most effective and appropriate modes of cooperation should be chosen on an ad hoc basis."

This addition is the last paragraph of document A/AC.105/1994/CRP.6.

We also have an amendment to paragraph 29 - additional wording at the end - submitted by the representative of Ecuador. It is in Spanish and has yet to be edited and translated into English. The amended paragraph 29 would read:

(spoke in Spanish)

> "The view was expressed that the concept of the common heritage of mankind, as developed by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, could serve as a basis for discussions on matters relating to outer space benefits and for the establishment of an appropriate regulatory instrument."

Paragraph 29 *bis*, which I have just read out, would follow.

The Chairman: I believe that the situation is sufficiently clarified. The appropriate wording in all working languages will be prepared by the Secretariat.

May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt paragraphs 21 to 30?

Paragraphs 21 to 30 were adopted.

The Chairman: Does the Committee wish to adopt paragraphs 31 to 38?

Paragraphs 31 to 38 were adopted.

The Chairman: We now turn to document A/AC.105/L.205/Add.2. Does the Committee wish to adopt paragraphs 1 and 2?

Paragraphs 1 and 2 were adopted.

The Chairman: For reasons of order, we now turn to document A/AC.105/L.205/Add.3. May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt paragraphs 1 to 6?

Paragraphs 1 to 6 were adopted.

The Chairman: We now return to A/AC.105/L.205/Add.2. Does the Committee wish to adopt paragraphs 3 to 6?

Paragraphs 3 to 6 were adopted.

The Chairman: Does the Committee wish to adopt paragraphs 7 to 10?

Paragraphs 7 to 10 were adopted.

Mr. Ventura Valero (Mexico) *(interpretation from Spanish):* My delegation wanted to wait until this important part of our report was adopted so that the statement I shall now make is appropriately reflected in the records of this meeting.

The Mexican delegation expresses its gratitude and support for your intensive and fruitful work, Mr. Chairman, to find the formula reflected in paragraphs 7 to 10, with which we agree. At the same time, we wish to reiterate that we interpret the consensus mentioned in paragraph 9 to mean consensus in each regional group in naming additional members, so that, in accordance with the practice of the United Nations, no other regional group can object.

The Chairman: We shall now take up consideration of paragraphs 11 to 14 *bis*.

Mr. Chandrasekhar (India): The Indian delegation would like to make a few comments on paragraph 11. We are grateful to you in particular, Mr. Chairman, and to the Committee in general for establishing a Working Group to improve the working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. But, even though we respect all the suggestions made in document A/AC.105/CRP.8, we believe it would take a long time for the Working Group to discuss them all. The Working Group should not become an obstacle to progress, rather than making progress on substantive issues. On this understanding, the Indian delegation agrees to establishing the Working Group, and hopes that in 1995, thanks to your able leadership, Sir, it will result in substantial improvements rather than impeding progress.

The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee is now prepared to adopt paragraphs 11 to 14 *bis*?

Paragraphs 11 to 14 bis were adopted.

The Chairman: Does the Committee wish to adopt paragraph 15?

Paragraph 15 was adopted.

The Chairman: May I take it that the Committee wishes to adopt paragraphs 16 to 21?

Paragraphs 16 to 21 were adopted.

The Chairman: Does the Committee wish to adopt paragraphs 22 to 24?

Paragraphs 22 to 24 were adopted.

The Chairman: We will now take up the adoption of the draft report as a whole.

Mr. Chandrasekhar (India): Where will the report reflect the paper submitted by the Group of 77 which was circulated to members of the Committee and the statement made by its Chairman in the Committee?

The Chairman: I call on the Secretary of the Committee to clarify that.

Mr. Jasentuliyana (Secretary of the Committee): The paper and the statement could be mentioned in the final

section of the draft report; there is a reference to three areas - UNISPACE, working methods and membership - so we could have a short paragraph there referring to the statement of the Group of 77 on those three issues.

The Chairman: I note that the Committee agrees with that clarification.

Is the Committee in agreement with the draft report as a whole?

The draft report, as a whole, was adopted.

Closing statements

The Chairman: We have just completed the final item on the agenda for this year's session of the Committee, and it is, as usual, an occasion for the Chairman to make a brief statement.

I would like first to thank all members most wholeheartedly for the very great spirit of cooperation they have shown, and - something that I was not able to say in New York last year - for the inspiring contributions of many delegations to our discussions. I have noted at this year's session that we have been much more creative in finding new approaches to new ideas. I am therefore very optimistic in looking forward to next year's sessions of the Subcommittees and of the main Committee.

In this connection, I would like to stress that I have taken very seriously all the concerns expressed during our debates. I have noted as particularly satisfactory the two rounds of informal consultations this year on working methods and on enlargement, and I am very grateful for all the contributions made during those consultations. We have, of course, to maintain the momentum and discuss all these subjects thoroughly and seriously next year in the relevant bodies.

I also appeal to all members to come to the General Assembly in the fall in a spirit of the utmost cooperation on the question of enlargement. I know that several delegations are very interested in joining the Committee, and I think we have found a sound basis for a compromise solution. I therefore appeal to members to preserve the spirit of Vienna when we come together again in New York and this item is taken up at the General Assembly.

In addition to thanking members and the observer delegations, I should like to express my gratitude to the specialized agencies that participated in our meetings. My deep thanks go to Mr. Jasentuliyana and the whole secretariat of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, with special mention of Dr. Abiodun, our Expert on Space Applications.

May I also thank the interpreters and verbatim reporters, who had some hard days during our brain-storming sessions, particularly when there were no prepared statements, which makes the task difficult. I also thank the conference officers and all other members of the Secretariat who helped us come to this successful end.

We are today in a rare situation. My colleague from Chile, one of the most experienced people in the Committee, may recall that we have not very often been able to conclude our sessions on a Thursday morning. In doing so today, we have shown how intensively we worked together and how important was members' spirit of cooperation.

I also thank the new Vice-Chairman of the Committee, who came here cold, as it were, because of his position as Ambassador of Romania in Vienna, and did a marvellous job chairing the Committee from time to time in my absence.

Finally, I wish specifically to mention the Rapporteur, who also did a marvellous job, especially in yesterday's difficult consultations, in helping us to overcome significant difficulties. We are proud that we have Edgard Ribeiro with us, and his delegation can be proud, because he had split functions as Rapporteur and member of the delegation of Brazil, which listened to him.

I hope I have not forgotten anybody. I thank everybody concerned.

Mr. González (Chile) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: I am sure I speak for all delegations in expressing sincere gratitude for the grand welcome once again accorded us by the Government of Austria and its Foreign Ministry, as represented by you, Mr. Chairman. It has been a great pleasure to return to the beautiful city of Vienna and to avail ourselves of the fine conference facilities here, which have contributed greatly to the smooth conduct of our work, as has the effective and efficient support of all members of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, conference servicing staff and other members of the secretariat. In our view, there can be no doubt that Austria has once again demonstrated its ability to provide an environment favourable to our future work - for which my delegation reiterates its support.

For various reasons I wish to convey our special thanks to the Vice-Chairman, the representative of Romania, for his participation and his - not surprisingly - effective guidance of informal consultations. We are grateful also to the representative of Brazil for the splendid way in which he carried out the functions of Rapporteur.

My delegation wishes publicly to reiterate that it remains at the disposal of the Chairman.

Mr. Muñoz Laborde (Spain) *(interpretation from Spanish):* Without wishing to prolong this meeting any longer than necessary, I want briefly to endorse the words of the representative of Chile, and very sincerely to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the admirable way in which you conducted the work of the Committee. It was thanks to you that we succeeded in unblocking a number of outstanding items. Nor can I forget the work of the Outer Space secretariat, the interpreters, the Committee officers, and all those who provide support for our work. My country is grateful to them all.

Mr. Chandrasekhar (India): On behalf of my delegation and of the Asian Group, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the excellent way in which you have conducted the Committee's proceedings. You will have seen that all delegations have great confidence in you; they have entrusted you with a very complex subject to be taken up during the coming session of the General Assembly. My delegation and the Asian Group are very confident that during that session you will handle the matters of this Committee and its membership very well, and that you will keep the spirit of the Committee alive for many years to come.

We also thank the Government of Austria, the conference secretariat and the Director and staff of the Office for Outer Space Affairs, who provided all the support needed for the smooth conduct of the Committee's proceedings. We particularly thank the Rapporteur, who conducted a very difficult process of negotiations on a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, a subject of interest to us and to the Group of 77. I am sure that we will make much further progress under his leadership.

Mr. He Qizhi (China) *(interpretation from Chinese):* The Chinese delegation fully agrees with all that previous speakers have said. We convey to you, Mr. Chairman, our respect and our gratitude. This session has been marked by notable achievements on important subjects; these were possible thanks to common efforts and contributions by all participants, but also thanks, Sir, to the able, successful way in which you guided the session. We clearly saw at this session a spirit of cooperation and consultation; we hope this spirit will continue to pervade our future work, and that these same factors will enable us at future sessions to achieve further success.

I thank the Vice-Chairman, the representative of Romania, and the Rapporteur, the representative of Brazil, for their enormous efforts and contributions. We also thank the members of the outer space secretariat under the leadership of Mr. Jasentuliyana, as well as the translators and interpreters, whose diligent work did much to facilitate our work.

Finally, we thank the host country, Austria, and its delegation for their warm hospitality. Their welcome was exemplary, and the facilities provided for the Committee were an important element in our success.

Mr. Moutsoulas (Greece): On behalf of my delegation I would like to add my voice to those of previous speakers, and express my gratitude to you, Sir, for the wisdom with which you conducted our meetings. We also thank the secretariat of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and the Rapporteur and other Committee officers. Additionally, we thank the Austrian delegation for the warm hospitality we enjoyed during our stay in Vienna.

The Chairman: I wish representatives success during their remaining time in Vienna, and a pleasant trip when they take their leave. I look forward to seeing representatives in the autumn, at the regular session of the General Assembly.

Closure of the session

The Chairman: I declare closed the thirty-seventh session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.